

# Space News ROUNDUP!

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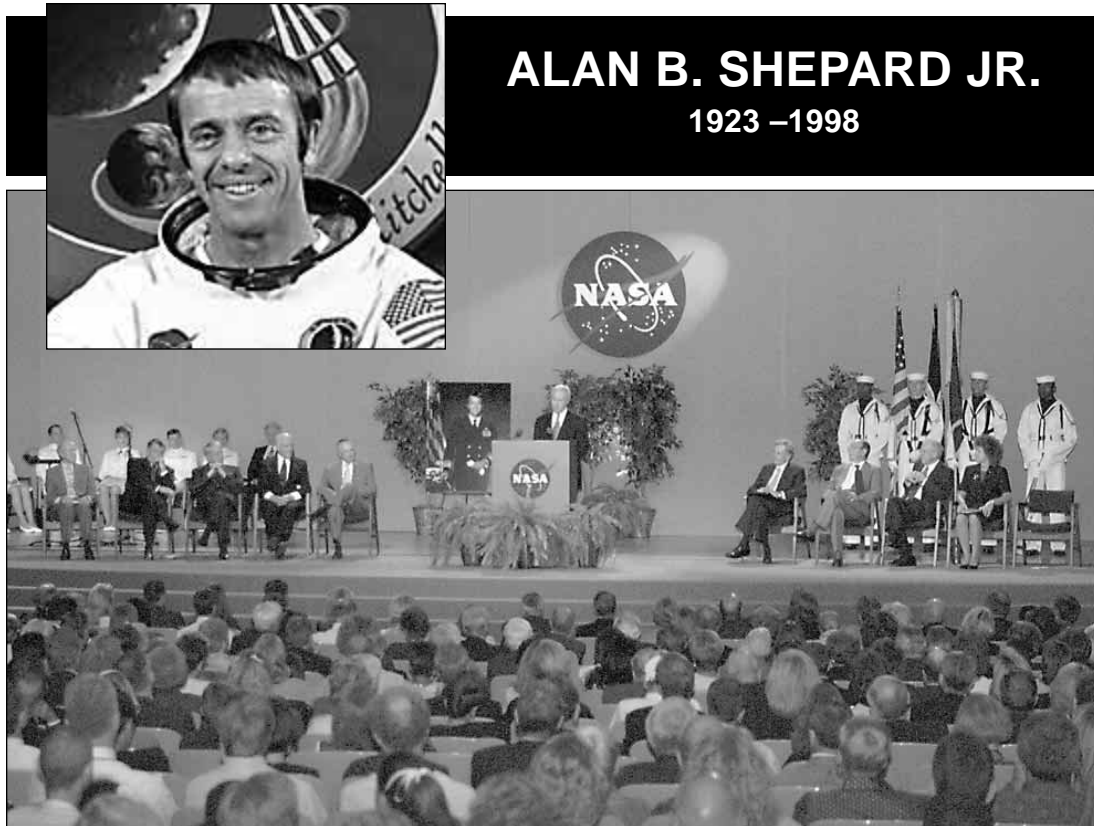
JSC engineer brings his dreams to life in career that spans 35 years.

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Timeline shows accomplishments of first American to venture into space.

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ALAN B. SHEPARD JR.  
1923 -1998

NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin eulogizes Alan B. Shepard Jr., the first American launched into space and one of only 12 human beings to set foot on the Moon, during Aug. 1 memorial services in Teague Auditorium. Joining Goldin were, from left, Gordon Cooper, Wally Shirra, Scott Carpenter, John Glenn, Chris Kraft, Peter Vanderhoef, Edgar Mitchell, Jim Lovell and Lisa Beeson.

JSC Photo by Mark Sowa

## Alan Shepard's story, in his own words

*[Editor's note: Earlier this year, Alan Shepard was interviewed at his home in Pebble Beach, Calif. as part of a NASA oral history project. This story is based on that interview.]*

If it hadn't been for Victor Polis, Alan Shepard might never have made it to the Moon.

Shepard had been scheduled to fly on the first Gemini mission, launched March 23, 1965—not quite four years after he had become the first American in space. But he was grounded because of a malady called Meunière's disease, which caused

lack of balance, nausea and dizziness because of increased pressure in the inner ear.

Shepard decided to stay with NASA and hope that a cure would be developed that would allow him to return to space, and indeed, to fly alone in an airplane. Medication helped, but after several years there still was no cure.

"It was (fellow astronaut) Tom Stafford who came to me and said he had a friend in Los Angeles who was experimenting in correcting this Meunière's

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## JSC expects huge Open House crowd

By John Ira Petty

JSC will host tens of thousands of visitors for its fourth annual Open House on Saturday, Aug. 29. They'll come to see the people, tools and the concepts that make up the nation's human space flight program.

The event, which attracted more than 70,000 people in 1997, is open to the public without charge or reservations. Gates open to the public at 9 a.m. and visitors can explore the center until 6 p.m.

Open House is an opportunity to show the nation's people, who own the space program, how JSC develops, supports and carries out human space flight programs. Visitors also will be able to see some of the many benefits the human exploration and development of space have brought and will continue to bring to the nation and the world.

The event gives the center and its people a chance to talk face-to-face with the public, many of whom know

little about the space program. It allows employees at the center to explain their jobs, how those activities fit into the broader picture and how the community and the country benefit.

Guests can select facilities or displays to see using free brochures with a map and brief explanations. More than 150 exhibits and displays will be available at 20 of the center's buildings, most open to the public only this day. Volunteers will be on hand to explain what they do.

Visitors are welcome to walk to the various displays, or they can ride covered trams around the center. The gift shops and cafeterias will be open.

Open House is held concurrently with the Saturday of the three-day Ballunar Liftoff Festival, also at JSC. The festival, featuring 100 or more balloon launches, offers midway rides, games, skydiving exhibitions, balloon flights and booths. Festival admission is \$3 for adults with children under 12 admitted free.

## Space News Roundup moving to new format

Today's issue marks a turning point for the Roundup which is moving to a monthly news magazine format with expanded participation from all JSC organizations.

Starting with today's issue, the Roundup will be published the first Friday of each month. The first issue to showcase the news magazine format will arrive in employees' "in" boxes Sept. 4.

In an effort to generate more involvement in the content of the Roundup and to help the Public Affairs Office keep its finger on the pulse of what is relevant to JSC management and employees, a working editorial board is being formed. The board will consist of representatives from every JSC organization. It will meet the week following every publication to review the previous issue, collect ideas for coverage in the next issue and make long-range plans for future issues.

The first editorial board meeting will be Sept. 8. Organizations are in the process of assigning representatives. Employees with feedback on Roundup features they would like to see retained or suggestions for improvements should contact their directorate offices for the names of their representatives. A full roster of the new board's membership will be printed in October.



NASA Photo

**INSIDE INSPECTION**—STS-95 crew members get a briefing on the Spacehab module from Chris Jaskoika of Boeing, in foreground at far right. From left, are Payload Specialist John Glenn, Mission Specialists Pedro Duque and Steve Robinson, Pilot Steve Lindsey; Commander Curt Brown, Mission Specialist Scott Parazynski; and Payload Specialist Chiaki Mukai. STS-95 will feature a variety of research payloads.